



The Office of Secretary of State

Karen C. Handel
SECRETARY OF STATE

Wesley Taylor
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

October 3, 2008

Dear Parent,

Today, your child and his or her school celebrated Civics Day, -- a day designated by the Georgia General Assembly for Georgia students to learn about elections and the importance of voting. The day is dedicated to the improvement of civic education and participation by Georgia students in the areas of representative democracy, exercising the right to vote, and the crucial role of our state's citizens in securing the blessings of liberty by becoming full participants in the political process.

Civics Day coincides with the approaching General Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2008. Voters will make important choices about the officials that will lead our state and our country. Here are some key points to remember as you prepare to vote:

- 1. Make sure you are registered to vote.** To participate in the November 4 General Election, you must be registered to vote by Monday, October 6. Voter registration applications must be postmarked by this deadline. To register to vote, download a voter registration application at www.sos.ga.gov/elections, or call your county registrar to obtain a form. If you have moved, you must update your voter registration to your current address.
- 2. Take advantage of early voting. Vote by Mail or Advance Vote.**

Vote by Mail. You can vote by mail (previously known as absentee voting) by requesting a mail-in ballot from your county registrar or county elections office. Or, you can download a request form from the Secretary of State's website. Send in the completed form and your ballot will be mailed to you. No reason or excuse is needed to vote by mail, and you are not required to show a photo ID when voting by mail.

Advance Vote. You can vote during Advance Voting Week from Monday, October 27 through Friday, October 31. During this week, you can vote at advance voting locations in the county where you are registered to vote. Contact your county registrar or elections office for locations and hours of operation. A photo ID is required to vote in-person during Advance Voting Week.

- 3. Election Day Voting.** Election Day is Tuesday, November 4. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Be sure to confirm the location of your polling place before heading to the polls. You can access our convenient, on-line “poll locator” at www.sos.ga.gov/elections, or you can call your county registrar’s office. Please remember to bring your photo ID to vote in person.

We expect record voter turnout this year and some polling places may experience long wait times during peak hours. The busiest times at the polls are typically from 7 a.m. – 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., and 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

- 4. If you plan to vote in-person, make sure you have a photo ID.** Georgia law requires voters to present an approved form of photo ID when voting in-person. Approved photo IDs include a Georgia driver’s license, a valid military, tribal or government-issued ID or U.S. passport. If you do not have one of these forms of photo identification, you can obtain a free voter ID card at your county registrar’s office or any Georgia Department of Driver Services center.

Also, please remember that you can help your community on Election Day by signing up to be a precinct poll worker. Serving as a poll worker is a great way to serve in your community and have a role in the election process. Please contact your county elections office for more information.

For more information about photo ID, becoming a poll worker, voting options, to check your voter registration status, or to find your polling place, please visit the Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.ga.gov/elections. You can also contact the Elections Division at 404-656-2871.

Today, students at your child’s school participated in a meaningful activity focused on voting and civic duty, one of the most important features of our great republic. I encourage you to continue this dialogue with your child and to demonstrate the importance of voting by participating in the November 4, 2008 General Election.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen C. Handel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen C. Handel
Georgia Secretary of State